

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 00526 181300Z

64

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SUBJECT: BERLIN COMMENTARY ON BUNDESTAG
INTERNAL SECURITY DEBATE

REF: BONN 4240

1. BERLIN PRESS HAS UNANIMOUSLY DEPLORED FACT THAT MARCH 13 BUNDESTAG DEBATE ON INTERNAL SECURITY DEGENERATED, AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF FACTUAL AND LEVEL-HEADED SPEECHES, INTO PARTISAN CONFRONTATION IN WHICH ALL SEMBLANCE OF "DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY" WAS LOST. MARCH 16 TAGESSPIEGEL EDITORIAL BORE TITLE "THE BONN TRAGEDY", MARCH 14 DER ABEND COMMENTARY, "DESTROYED HOPES"; AND MARCH 14 BERLINER MORGENPOST EDITORIAL, "NO SOLIDARITY." DEPENDING ON POLITICS OF PARTICULAR EDITOR, BRANDT, STRAUSS, AND WEHNER WERE VARIOUSLY SINGLED OUT AS BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR DEBACLE.

2. DESPITE REGRETTED CONFRONTATION, SOME COM-
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PAGE 02 USBERL 00526 181300Z

MENTATORS PROFESSED TO SEE A FEW POSITIVE RESULTS.

IN MARCH 16 EDITORIAL, FORMER TAGESSPIEGEL CHIEF EDITOR SILEX POINTED OUT THAT NO SPEAKER HAD CRITICIZED DECISION OF CRISIS STAFFS TO SAVE LORENZ'S LIFE; THAT MOTIONS OF BOTH GOVT AND OPPOSITION FOR STRENGTHENING MEANS OF COMBATTING TERRORISM WERE UNANIMOUSLY REFERRED TO COMPETENT COMMITTEES; AND THAT PARTIES WERE FULLY AGREED IN THEIR BASIC DECLARATIONS ON NEED FOR BETTER SECURITY. DER ABEND NOTED THAT GOOD WILL WAS PRESENT AMONG MORE THAN A FEW PARTICIPANTS IN DEBATE, ESPECIALLY SCHMIDT AND DREGGER. GENERAL CONSENSUS, HOWEVER, WAS IN LINE WITH OPINION EXPRESSED BY PRO-SPD SPANDAUER VOLKSBLATT THAT DEBATE CONTRIBUTED VERY LITTLE TO DEVELOPMENT OF PRACTICAL AND REALISTIC CONCEPT FOR COMBATTING TERROR AND VIOLENCE OVER LONG TERM.

3. NUMBER OF BERLIN COMMENTATORS GAVE GOVMAYOR SCHUETZ HIGH MARKS FOR HIS DISPASSIONATE SPEECH IN WHICH HE SAID PARTISAN DEBATERS CONCERNED WITH FUTURE OF RECHTSTAAT HAD MORE IN COMMON THAN THEY REALIZED AND DEFENDED, INTER ALIA, DECISION IN LORENZ CASE TO ACCEDE TO DEMANDS OF ABDUCTORS. BOELKE, IN MARCH 14 TAGESSPIEGE EDITORIAL, WENT AS FAR AS TO TERM THIS ONE OF BEST SPEECHES OF SCHUETZ'S CAREER; QUOTE WHAT SCHUETZ SAID ABOUT THE REACTION OF THE RECHTSTAAT TO THE ABDUCTION OF LORENZ WAS BETTER AND MORE VALID THAN WHAT WAS TO BE HEARD FROM THE BENCHES OF THE BUNDESTAG ITSELF. UNQUOTE IF NOTHING ELSE, MARCH 13 DEBATE HAS A LEAST HAD POSITIVE EFFECT OF INCREASING SCHUETZ'S STATURE IN BERLIN AND OF ENHANCING HIS REPUTATION AS SINCERE, PRACTICAL, AND COMMITTED STATESMAN. GEORGE

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